



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

while the large holding is being diminished in size because the small holding has been found more profitable. The evidence presented proves conclusively that the solution of the agrarian problem in France will not consist in land nationalization, but in the continuance of the present democracy of rural small proprietors, who are friendly to order and progress, instructed in their lines of work, and satisfied with the present economic and social régime.

The volume has been carefully supervised, arranged, and edited by M. Ribet, assistant minister of agriculture.

JAMES B. MORMAN.

Washington, D. C.

*Agrarverfassung und Landwirtschaft in Belgien.* BY J. FROST.  
(Berlin: Deutsche Landwirtschafts-Gesellschaft, 1909. Pp. viii, 555. 6 m.)

This book, which is published by the German Agricultural Society, describes the condition of agriculture in Belgium. It is divided into five parts: (1) the nature of the land, (2) the agrarian situation, (3) farm equipment and operation in different localities, (4) agricultural production, and (5) rural economy. The scope of its treatment and the fact that the book is sold to members of the society at half-price indicates that it was intended primarily for practical farmers in Germany who, from the account of agricultural conditions in a neighboring country, might be materially aided in meeting their own problems.

The bulk of the material contained in this treatise is not of much general value to American economists. The statistical data are brought down only to the year 1905, and many not later than 1895; much later material may be derived from the *Annuaire statistique de la Belgique* or *Recensement général de l'Agriculture*. However, the volume is not intended primarily as a book on statistics. Such data are presented with a view of showing the exact status of agriculture in Belgium at a particular time in order to indicate the economic and social change from decade to decade. Herein lies the chief value of the volume to economists. Part II,

for example, (pages 79–170) on the agrarian situation, gives a brief account of the original settlement of Belgium and discusses the development of land holding and tenantry, the agricultural population, the size of farms, the economic status of owner and renter, the agricultural labor problem, agricultural organizations, and other related topics of a strictly economic nature. Part V, likewise (pages 485–528), on rural economy, discusses the marketing of Belgium's agricultural products, capital invested in agriculture, and other economic subjects relating to land values, rents, taxation, and indebtedness. The author's summary (pages 529–555) of the whole agrarian situation in Belgium is particularly interesting for it traces the general effect of the land system upon rural life and upon the future welfare of the country.

Belgium is shown to be a land of small holdings. Out of a total of 286,250 farms, 193,845, or 67.6 per cent, were under  $12\frac{1}{2}$  acres; 51,499, or 18 per cent, were under 25 acres; and 26,877, or 9.4 per cent, under 50 acres. That is to say, 95 per cent of the holdings ranged from  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to 50 acres. A large part of the country is over-populated and, in contrast with most other European countries at the present time, Belgium has an over abundance of rural labor, the result of which is, that thousands of laborers migrate across the French border in search of employment. The land sytem has resulted in a constant division into even smaller holdings; in many instances the holding is no longer able to support the family, and is therefore given up, and the farmer is changed from an owner to a renter. The standard of living of the majority of the Flemish farm laborers could hardly sink lower and this condition, the author believes, is the most serious factor in the agrarian labor problem in Belgium.

The volume contains two colored maps describing the geological and political divisions of the country; it contains also numerous half-tones, an extensive bibliography relating to Belgium's rural economy, and a detailed table of contents, but it lacks an index, which, in view of the amount and importance of the subject matter, seems particularly unfortunate.

JAMES B. MORMAN.

Washington, D. C.